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DEMOCRACY

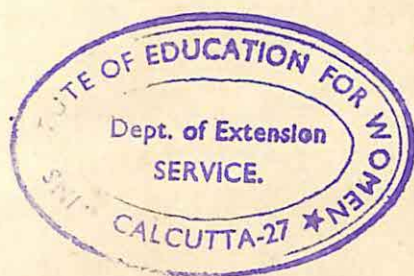
Ryllis and Omar Goslin

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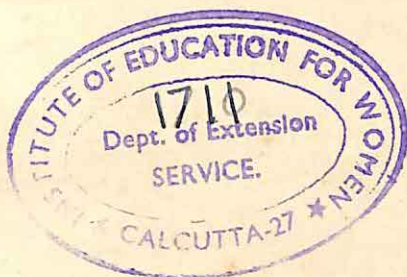


DEMOCRACY



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by Ryllis and Omar Goslin



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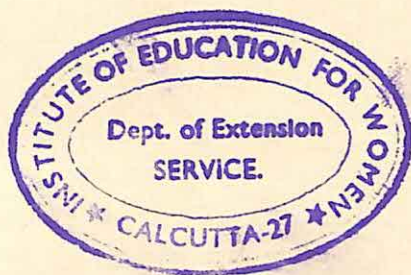
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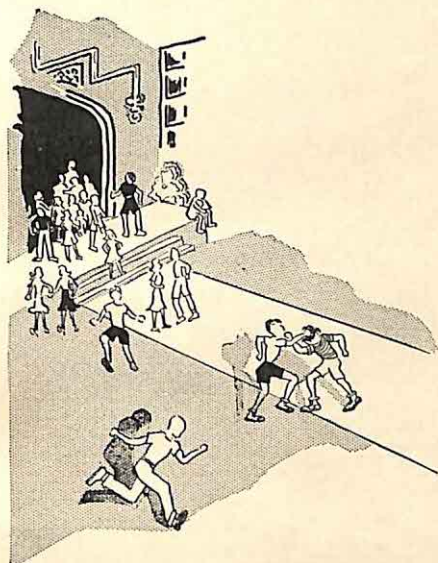
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DEMOCRACY



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THE DOOR'S OPEN



WHEN you catch a fish on the end of your line and start to pull him out of the water, you know what will happen.

He will flop about and yank the line this way and that, trying to get away.

When birds are put in a cage, they are likely to break their wings against the bars, and the moment the door is left open they will fly away. For birds were meant to be free as the air.



Photo. by Ewing Galloway

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER BE—A BIRD FREE AS THE AIR?

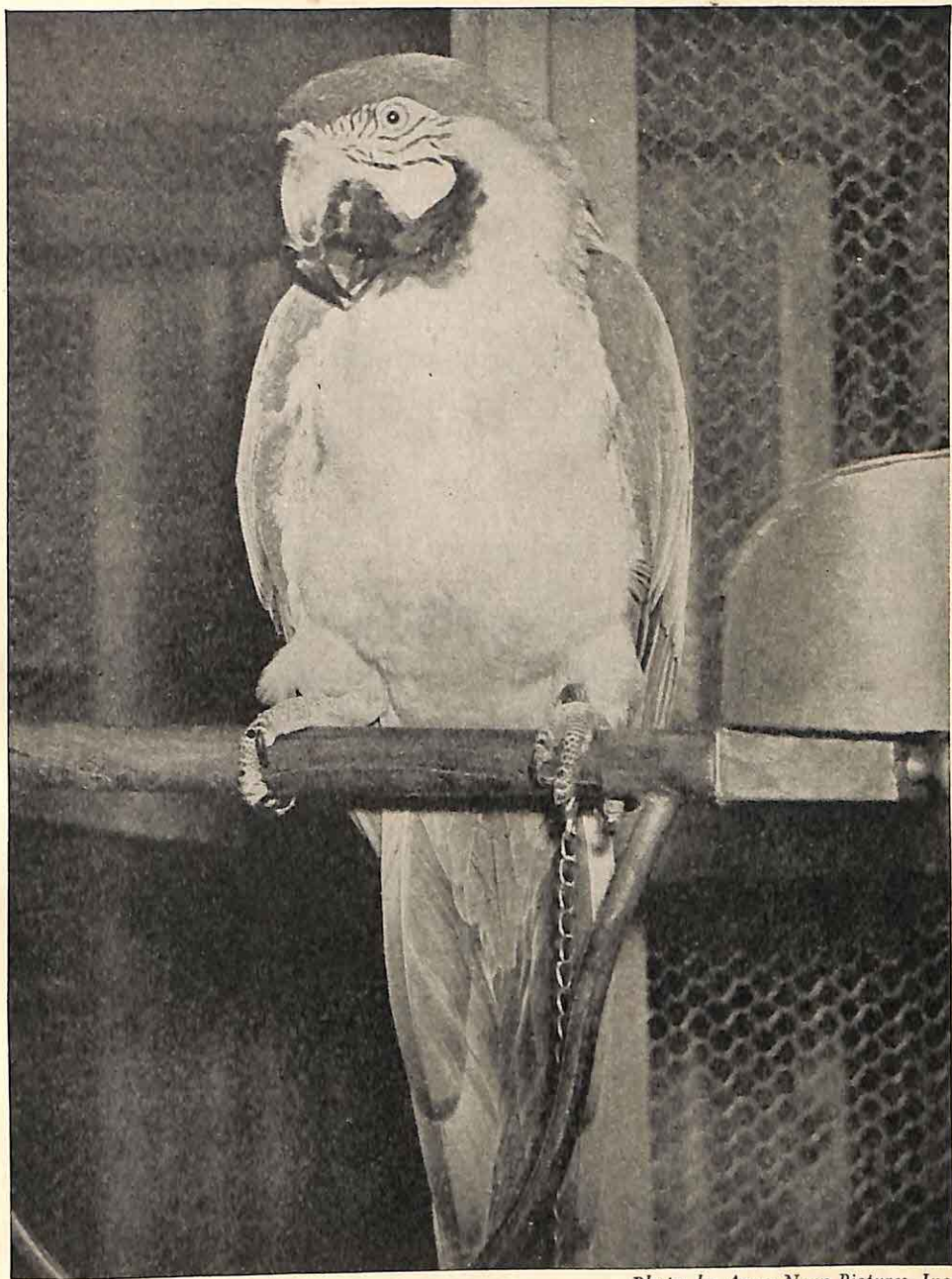


Photo. by Acme News Pictures, Inc.

OR A PARROT IN A CAGE?

Even your dog doesn't like to be kept on a leash. He tries to break loose and wants a chance to run. If you keep him tied in the back yard, he probably barks and disturbs the neighbors.

People don't like to be bossed any more than fish want to be pulled out of the sea or birds like to be put in a cage. Men and women and boys and girls are made with minds of their own. It is natural for them to want to know what is going on around them, and how to learn more about the things which interest them.

It is natural, too, for them to want to have something to say about how they spend their time, about what they study, and about the sort of work they do for a living. So it is no wonder that people object when someone interferes with their plans and tells them they have to do something else.

Most people have some special kind of ability. One may be cut out to be an engineer, another to be a musician, another a carpenter, still another to be a surgeon.

It is as natural for an artist to want to draw and paint as for a fish to want to swim. And it is a pity for anyone to interfere and try to force him to be a lawyer or a merchant.

For centuries men and women have struggled for more and more freedom—freedom from tyrants of all kinds who ordered them about and told them what they had to do or say or think. There were tyrants who made men spend their lives fighting for them to win land or riches. Other tyrants forced their slaves to build great palaces or monuments. Still others compelled their subjects to obey certain laws or to accept a certain religion or to pay heavy taxes. Sooner or later people rebelled and insisted that they must be free to choose their own leaders, make their own laws, and run their own affairs.

We all want to feel free to do the thing which we are most interested in doing. And as we acquire skill at work or at play, and develop whatever talent we have, we become happier human beings.



IT'S NO FUN TO HAVE TO MOW THE LAWN



Photo. by Ewing Galloway

ON THE DAY YOU HAD PLANNED TO GO SWIMMING

Above all, men and women have wanted freedom to think their own thoughts. They do not like to be told that they must believe this or that. They want the right to agree or disagree and to accept one idea rather than another. If they do not approve of someone or something, they want to be able to say so.

Democracy means freedom. It means that people are free to make full use of their minds and to develop without interference all of their interests and abilities. They are allowed to take charge of their own lives.

IT'S YOUR TURN

FREEDOM is not as easy as it sounds. It is not enough merely to be free as the air. The wind sometimes spends its energy scattering leaves. People who are free to do as they please have to decide what they are going to do with their freedom. As long as there is someone else to tell you what to do, you do not have to think very much about what's going to happen next. But when freedom comes and you take charge of your own affairs, you have to begin choosing and making plans.

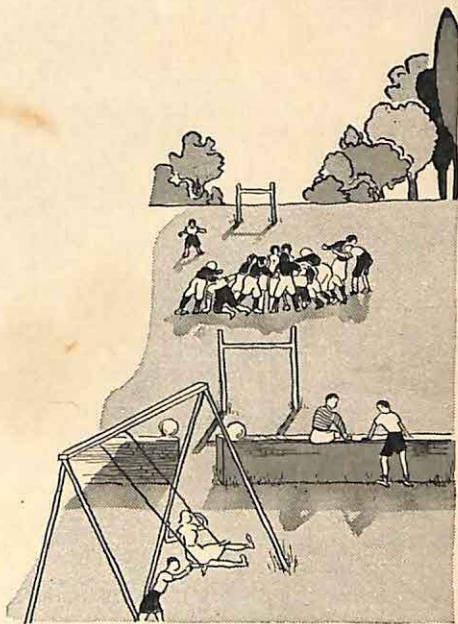




Photo. by Ewing Galloway

THE WIND SCATTERS LEAVES



Photo. by Ewing Galloway

OR TURNS THE WINDMILL

The man who wants to run his own car must know how to start it, how to change the speed, and how to put on the brake. And he must know where he is going and keep his hands on the steering wheel.

People in one country after another have found out that their troubles are not over when they get rid of a king or an emperor. If they do not want someone else to govern them, they must learn how to govern themselves. They must decide questions and solve problems.

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and other early Americans discovered this when the Revolution was over and they came to write a Constitution and set up a new kind of government for this country.

Did you ever stop to wonder who decides about traffic laws in your town or city? Or who sees to it that the town has plenty of water and paved streets and a fire department and schools and hospitals and policemen and parks and bridges and a hundred other services which you take for granted? There is no dictator to say that

this or that has to be done. The people who live in your town are responsible for what happens. They have helped to make rules and they have elected certain men and women to do various jobs.

If they do not like the way something is done, they must do more than throw stones. It is up to the citizens of a town or of a nation to find out what the trouble is, discover a better way of doing things, and see to it that the new plan is put into effect.

But sometimes people get tired of trying to run their own affairs. They want someone else to solve their problems and decide what should be done. And as soon as they turn over the job of government to somebody else, they give up their freedom.

Learning how to govern one's self is a good deal like learning how to play a game. The boy who wants to play football or baseball has to work hard. He must go out for practice every afternoon. He must get his body in good condition and gain control over certain muscles in his



JUST THROWING STONES



Courtesy of United Artists

OR PRACTICING

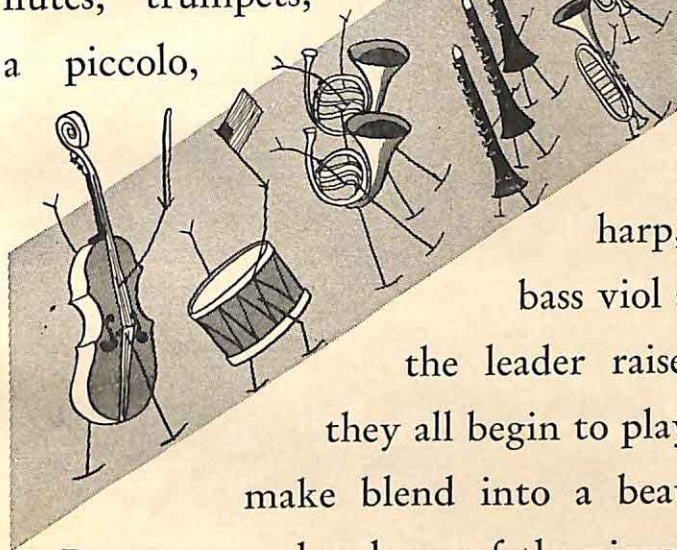
legs and arms and hands, so that he can run and catch the ball. The more control he gets, the better he will be able to play, and the more he will enjoy the game.

If you want to be able to swim and dive, you will have to spend long hours practicing, learning how to control your breathing in the water, how to use your arms and legs, and how to hold your body when it goes off the springboard.

Democracy means self-government. If boys and girls and men and women are to enjoy freedom, they must be willing to take the trouble to govern themselves.

ONE FOR ALL

THE orchestra is getting ready. Each member has before him the notes that he is to play. There are all kinds of instruments—violins, saxophones, flutes, trumpets, a piccolo,



cornets, cellos, a harp, a piano, a big bass viol and drums. When the leader raises his baton and they all begin to play, the sounds they make blend into a beautiful symphony.

But suppose the player of the piccolo says to himself, "It doesn't matter whether I play or not. The piccolo isn't really needed to carry the melody. No one can hear



Photo. by Acme News Pictures, Inc.

DEPENDENT ON A STRING

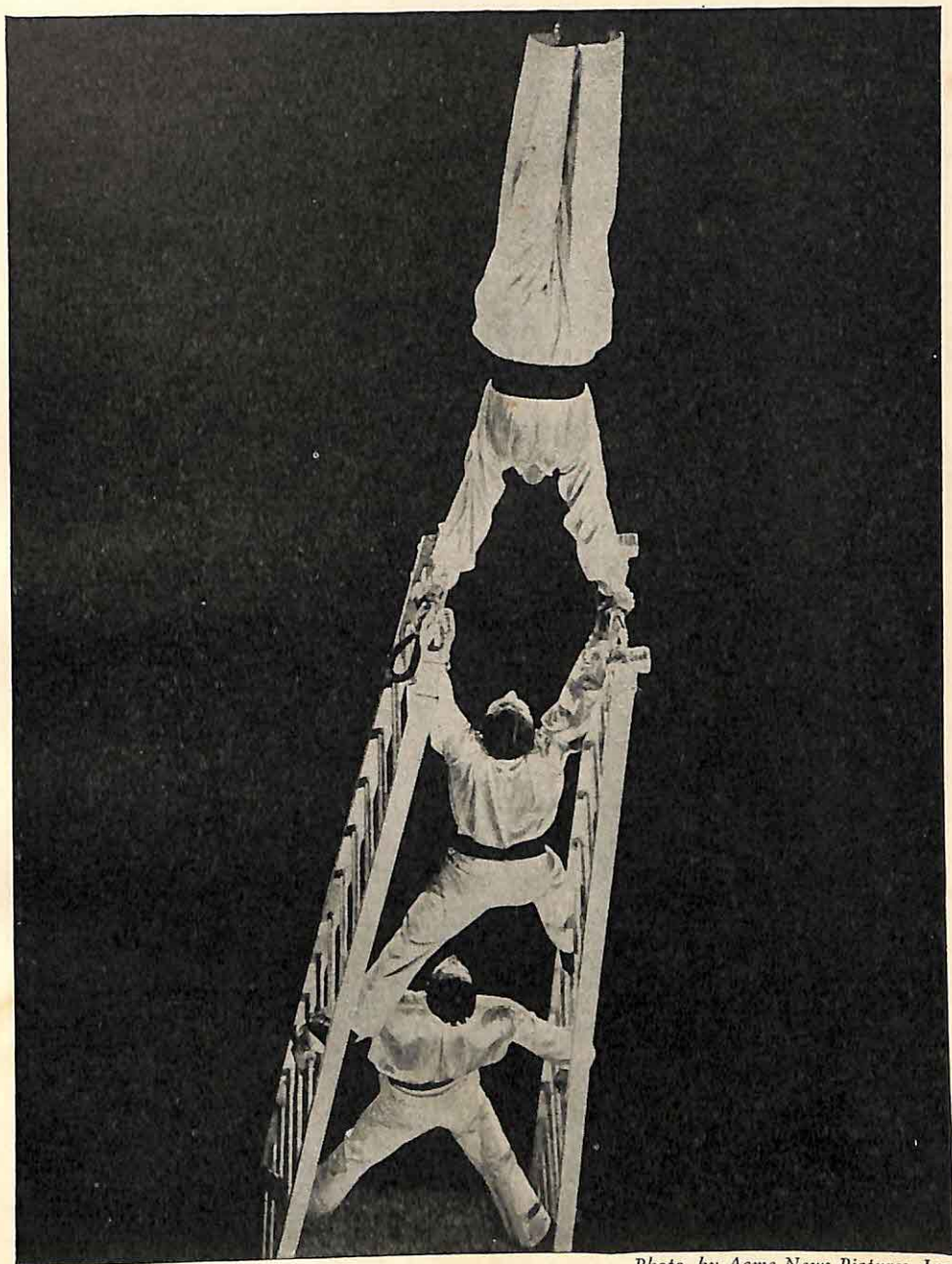


Photo. by Acme News Pictures, Inc.

DEPENDENT ON ONE ANOTHER

me anyway when all the others are playing. What difference would it make if I just stopped playing?" Or the flute player might think the same thing. And then the harpist and some of the violinists. Pretty soon, as one after another dropped out, the orchestra would no longer be making music but just an odd combination of sounds.

Each instrument is needed in the playing of the symphony. Even the soft notes of the flute serve to balance the deep rumble of the bass viol. Something is lost when any one member of the orchestra becomes silent.

Every member of a football or baseball team must do his part if the team is going to win. The fellow who carries the football may be able to run very fast, but he can't get through the line to make a touchdown unless the other members of his team open the way for him. A good pitcher is important on a baseball team, but the players on base and out in the field must always be ready to catch the ball and keep the other team from making a run.

As members of a team, each one of us is expected to do certain things and we expect the rest of the team to do their part too. It is the same at school and at home. We depend on others and they depend on us. And all goes well if we do our part and they do theirs.

If we were merely puppets on a string, we wouldn't have to think about this matter of team play or responsibility. Someone at the other end of the string would move us about and do our thinking for us. Puppets aren't responsible if they step on each other's toes or bump into each other or fumble the ball.

But none of us would like being a puppet and being yanked about by someone else. Puppets don't have the fun of moving their own arms and legs and walking about where and when they please. Nor do they have the fun of playing on a football team and going into a huddle to help decide what's going to happen next.

Sometimes, of course, we elect someone to make decisions for us. A team may depend on its captain to call

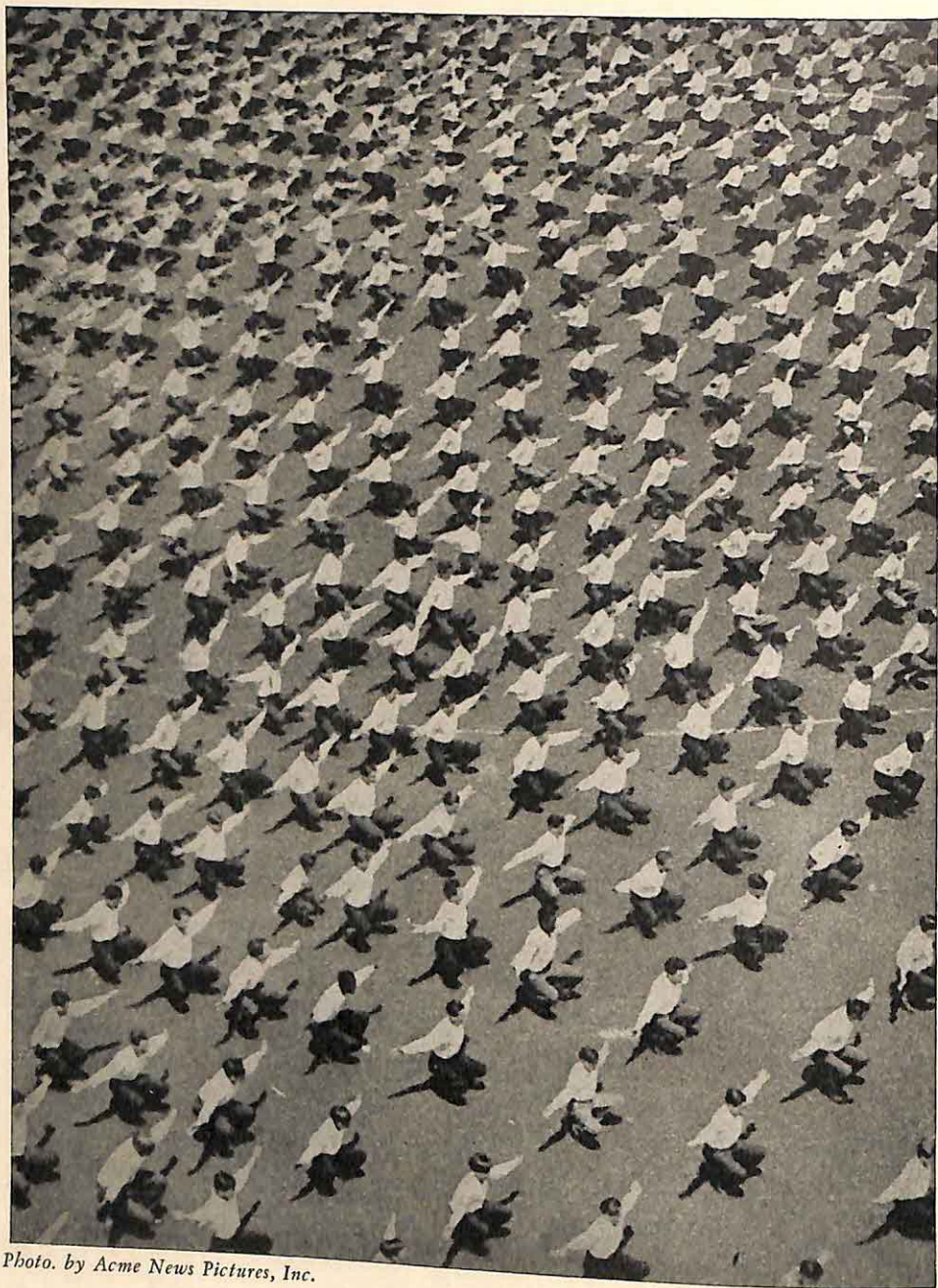


Photo. by Acme News Pictures, Inc.

THEY MOVE AS ONE AT A COMMAND



Photo. by Pix Publishing, Inc.

THEY DECIDE ON THE NEXT PLAY

the next play. The people in a town choose a mayor and the whole country elects a president. But our jobs as individuals don't end when the election is over.

All of us must be willing to accept their decisions and obey the rules, whether we agree with them or not, until the time comes to elect someone else and change the rules.

There are a good many people just like the piccolo player who said to himself that he wasn't needed. When election time comes, they say to themselves that it doesn't matter whether they vote or not, that among so many thousand votes theirs won't be missed, and that what they do wouldn't change matters one way or another.

But the person who says this is giving up his chance to help decide what happens next in the town or country where he lives. He allows someone else to decide for him what kind of government he is going to have.

Democracy means accepting responsibility. Citizens in a democracy, like players in any kind of game, depend on each other to make the government a success.

TAKING SIDES

THE Joneses are planning to go away for a summer vacation but they haven't decided yet just where they will go. Jimmy, who is twelve, is trying to persuade the family to take a cottage

up at the lake in Vermont where he went camping with the Scouts last year. Mary, who is sixteen, wants to go to the seashore where she can lie on the beach, show off her new bathing suit, and get a good tan. Dad would like a chance to go fishing and play golf, so he is inclined to

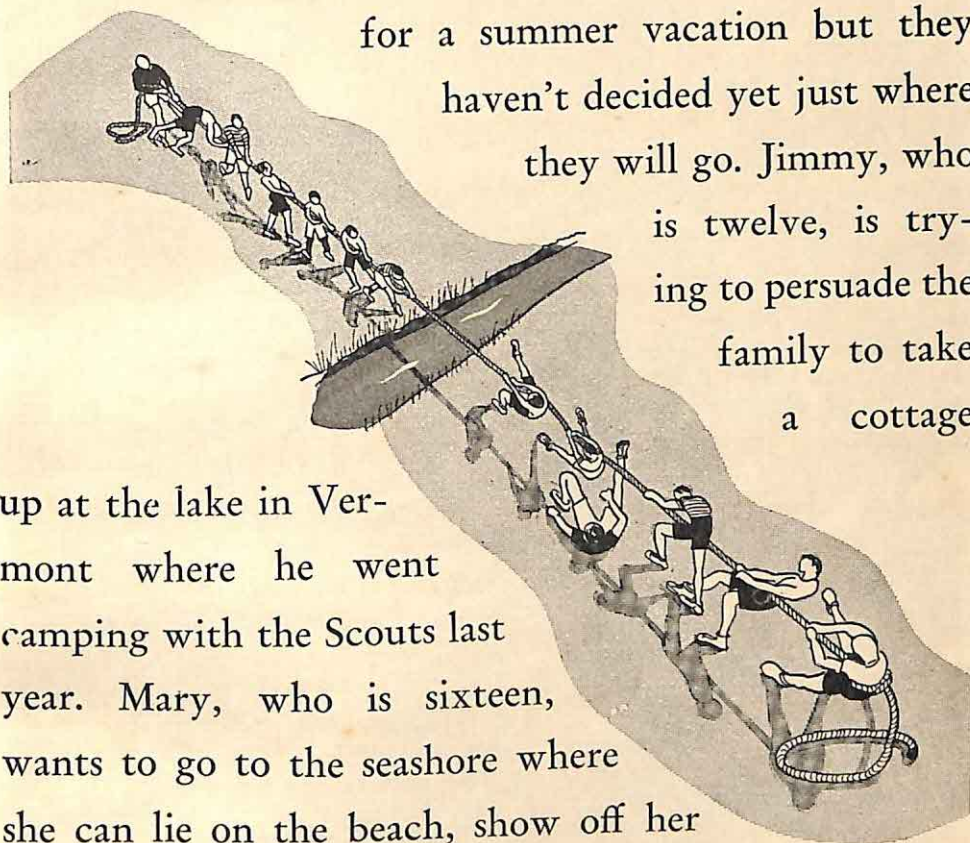




Photo. by Ewing Galloway

ONE WAY STREET



Photo. by Ewing Galloway

MORE THAN ONE WAY TO GO

favor Jimmy's idea. But Dick, who is home from college, argues that an automobile trip to California would be more fun.

Mother isn't quite sure. She wants a rest from planning meals and making beds and washing dishes. That is why the hotel at the seashore appeals to her more than the cottage at the lake.

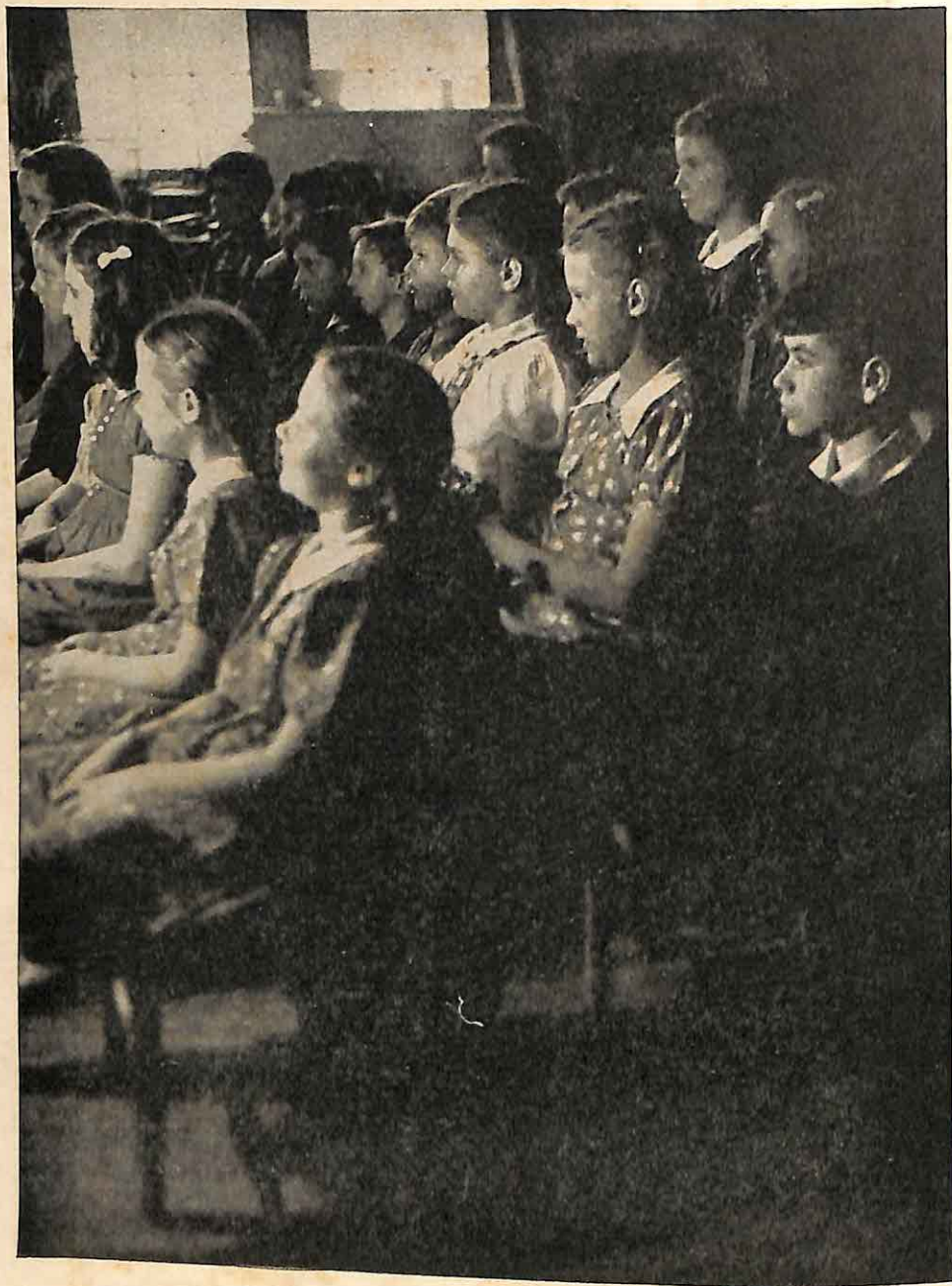
Days go by and still the family can't agree. What are they going to do? Of course, Dad could go ahead and rent the cottage and announce that the family is going to Vermont. In that case, Mother and Mary and Dick would just have to go whether they wanted to or not. But he doesn't do that. Instead, he calls a family conference to discuss the matter and try to settle it.

Mary persuades Dad that he can play golf and go fishing just as well at the seashore as he can in Vermont, but Jimmy is still in favor of the lake and Dick hankers for the big auto trip. Finally, a vote is taken, and the seashore wins by a count of three to two. Jimmy and Dick have

to give in, but Mother and Mary and Dad promise to consider their ideas again next year.

People disagree about all sorts of things besides vacations. They argue about the weather. Some want it warm, others like it cool. One says the sun will shine tomorrow, another is sure it will rain. Or your friends may think that a certain movie star is wonderful but you don't like her at all. When your team gets ready to elect a captain, some of the members are in favor of one boy and all the rest want somebody else.

The more important the question is, the more excited people get. When it comes time to elect a president, there are lots of banners and brass bands and speeches. The Republicans insist that they know how to solve all of the country's problems and that their candidate must be elected. The Democrats are just as sure that they know what ought to be done and they urge everybody to vote for their candidate. There are several more parties with candidates who claim that they could run the country



JUST LISTENING



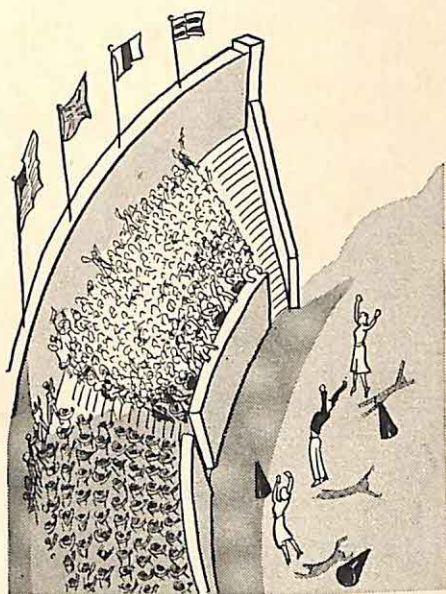
SOME FOR, SOME AGAINST

better than either the Republicans or the Democrats.

Before Election Day comes around, the people of the country have a chance to listen to all the arguments and choose the candidate for whom they want to vote. And the man who gets the largest number of votes is elected.

But suppose that men and women didn't have a chance to choose. Suppose the country was always run by the same political party, and there was only one candidate for election and people had to vote for him whether they liked him or not. They would soon find that they didn't have freedom or the right to govern themselves.

Democracy means differences of opinion. It means taking sides and playing to win, instead of merely follow-the-leader. It means discussion and argument instead of just accepting what somebody else says. It means that instead of having only one thing to do or one way to go, boys and girls and men and women can help to decide on the next play in the game, or the next turn in the road, or the next president of the United States.



GOOD SPORTS

DID you ever watch a bunch of hungry pigs shoving each other out of the way to get to the trough? It's a case of every fellow for himself. The

biggest ones get there first and haven't time to bother about the little ones who can't get near enough to eat. That's why we always think of pigs as being bad sports.

Bad sports aren't willing to give everybody a chance to play. They don't care if some people get left out of the game. Or they think that a certain team shouldn't be allowed in the league because they can't play as well or because they don't have uniforms or because they live in a different part of town.

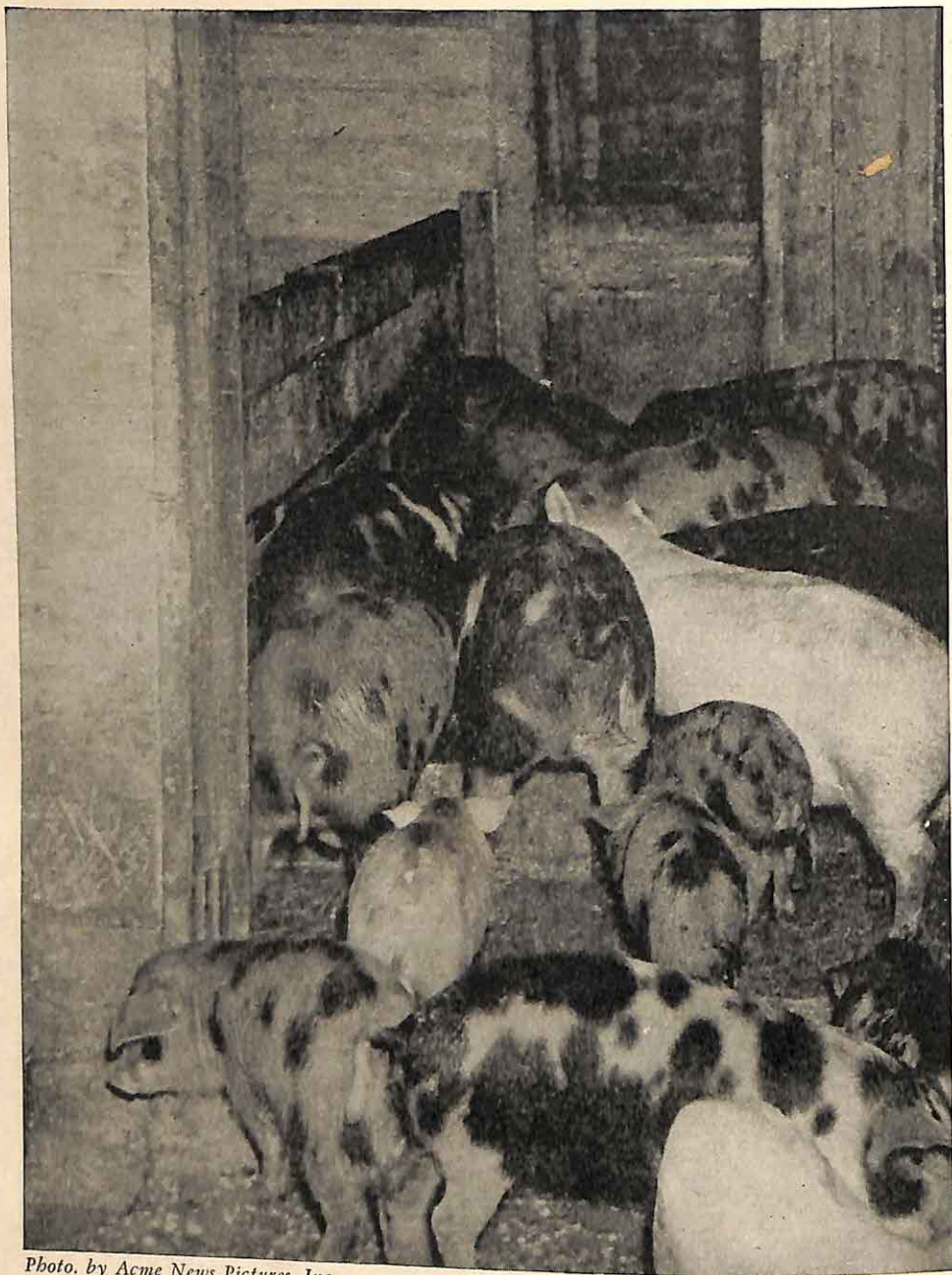


Photo. by Acme News Pictures, Inc.

NO TIME FOR THE OTHER FELLOW

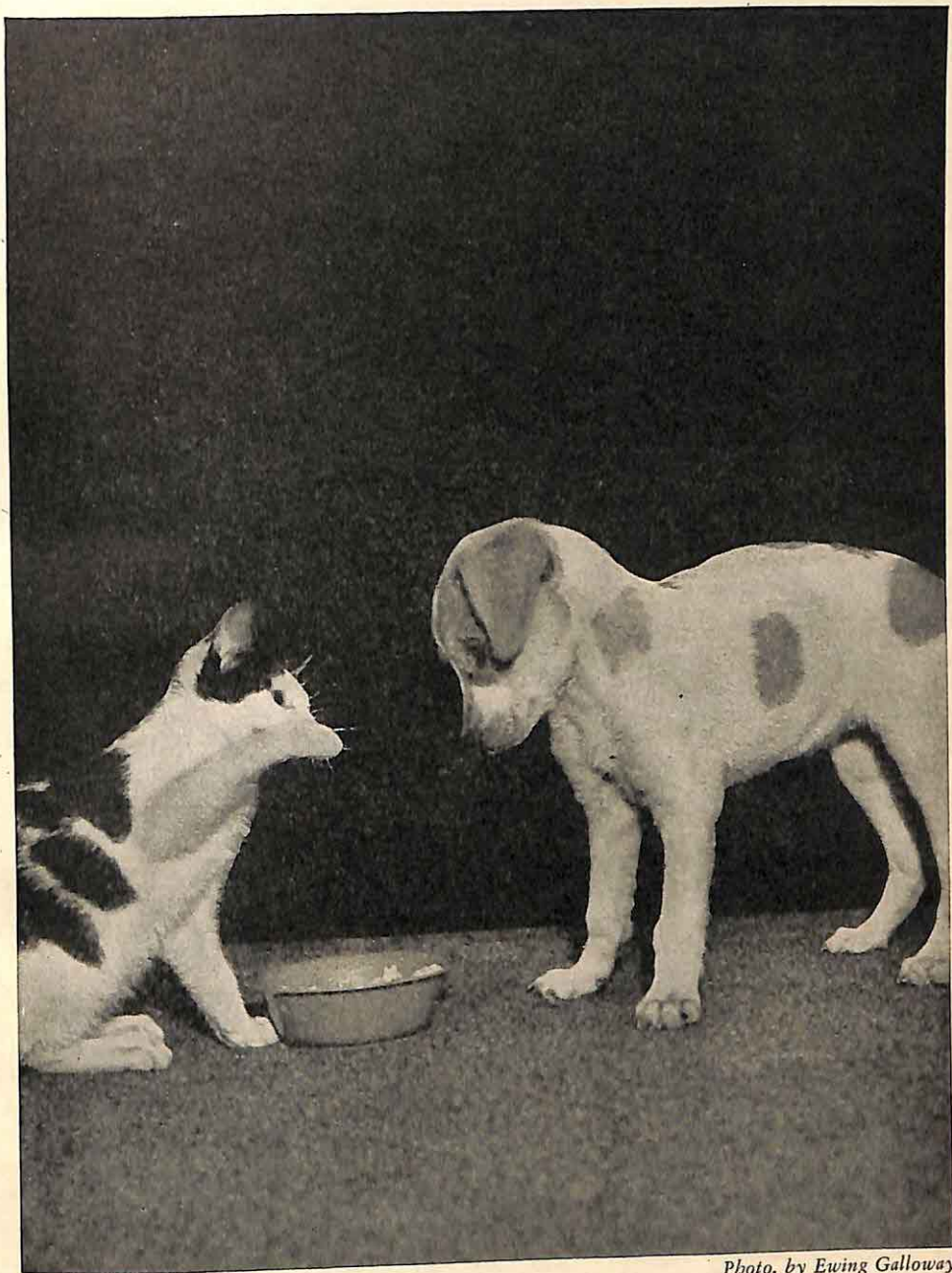


Photo. by Ewing Galloway

FRIENDLY ENEMIES

When a poor sport loses, he tries to argue with the umpire. Or he makes excuses and claims that he didn't have a fair chance. If he wins, he doesn't give the other team credit for playing a good game and never offers to play a return match. He hasn't time to bother with anyone who, he thinks, isn't as big or as smart as he is.

All of us like to win. That is part of the fun of playing a game. Whether the game is baseball or basketball, tennis or pingpong, Chinese checkers or parchesi, we enjoy getting a higher score than anybody else. But we can't all win all the time. No matter how well we can play or how much luck we have, there are sure to be times when somebody else gets a higher score than we do. So we all need to learn how to be good sports whether we win or lose.

Being a good sport in a game is often easier than being a good sport in an argument. Do you get mad when your family or your friends don't agree with you about something? Lots of people do. They are sure that they are

right and everybody else is wrong. So they don't want to hear what the other side has to say. They may even refuse to listen. And all the time they are being bad sports.

An argument is a good deal like a game. There are always two sides and perhaps more. When there are a good many people taking part, it is best to have someone act as referee and see to it that everybody has a chance to speak. Otherwise some will do all the talking or all will try to talk at once.

It is not so easy to decide who wins an argument as it is to know who wins a football game or a tennis match. Certainly the winner is not the man who can talk the loudest or the longest. That person wins who is able to convince the largest number of people that he or she is right. But this will probably not be the end of the argument. And it shouldn't be. The winner must be good sport enough to let his opponents go on talking and trying to convince him that he is wrong.

It has turned out more than once that the person



NO GIRLS ALLOWED



ALL HOBBIES WELCOME

whom most people laughed at turned out to be right. Only a few people believed Columbus when he said he could sail around the world. Most of his friends believed that the earth was flat and expected him and his ship to fall off the edge. The first automobile was considered a ridiculous nuisance. When men talked about flying through the air, people thought they were crazy.

It's a good idea to consider all points of view in any argument. The one which sounds absurd to us now may turn out to be very good sense after a while. And if new ideas are to have a chance to grow and develop into important discoveries or better ways of doing things, we must all be good sports and listen whether we agree with them at first or not.

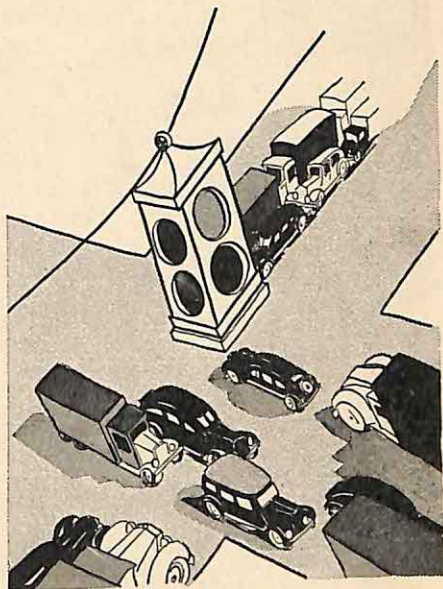
Democracy means tolerance—the willingness to give every team a chance to play and every side in an argument an opportunity to express itself. No group of people in a democracy should consider itself better than any other group.

GREEN LIGHT

ALL of us like shortcuts, whether we are working out arithmetic problems or dashing to catch a bus or rushing home for dinner. It's a lot easier to run across the lawn than to walk around by the sidewalk. But shortcuts are likely to cause us more trouble than they are worth.

Cutting corners across the lawn will kill the grass and someone will have a hard time making it grow again.

There's the morning when you are hurrying because you are late for breakfast. Your shoestring gets a knot in it. You give it a yank instead of taking time to untie it. So of course it breaks—and then you are in a fix.





ONE WAY TO GET IN



IF YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR THE KEY

You need patience, too, if you want to teach your dog to do certain tricks. You can't make him sit up or play dead by whipping him. You will have to show him how to do it over and over again until finally he understands and does it willingly because he is anxious to please you.

When your father drives down the street, he has to have a certain amount of patience, too. If he is in too much of a hurry and drives too fast or goes through a red light, he is likely to be arrested. Then he loses a lot of time going to the police station to talk to the judge, and may have to pay a fine besides.

But why is your father told to slow down? Why shouldn't he be allowed to drive sixty miles an hour if he wants to? Doesn't he live in a free country?

Of course he does. But suppose everybody decided to drive sixty miles an hour and no one paid any attention to red lights. Not only would there be plenty of accidents, but traffic would get into such a jam that no one would be able to go anywhere. Traffic laws are needed

not so much to keep people from driving fast as to make it possible for them to go at all.

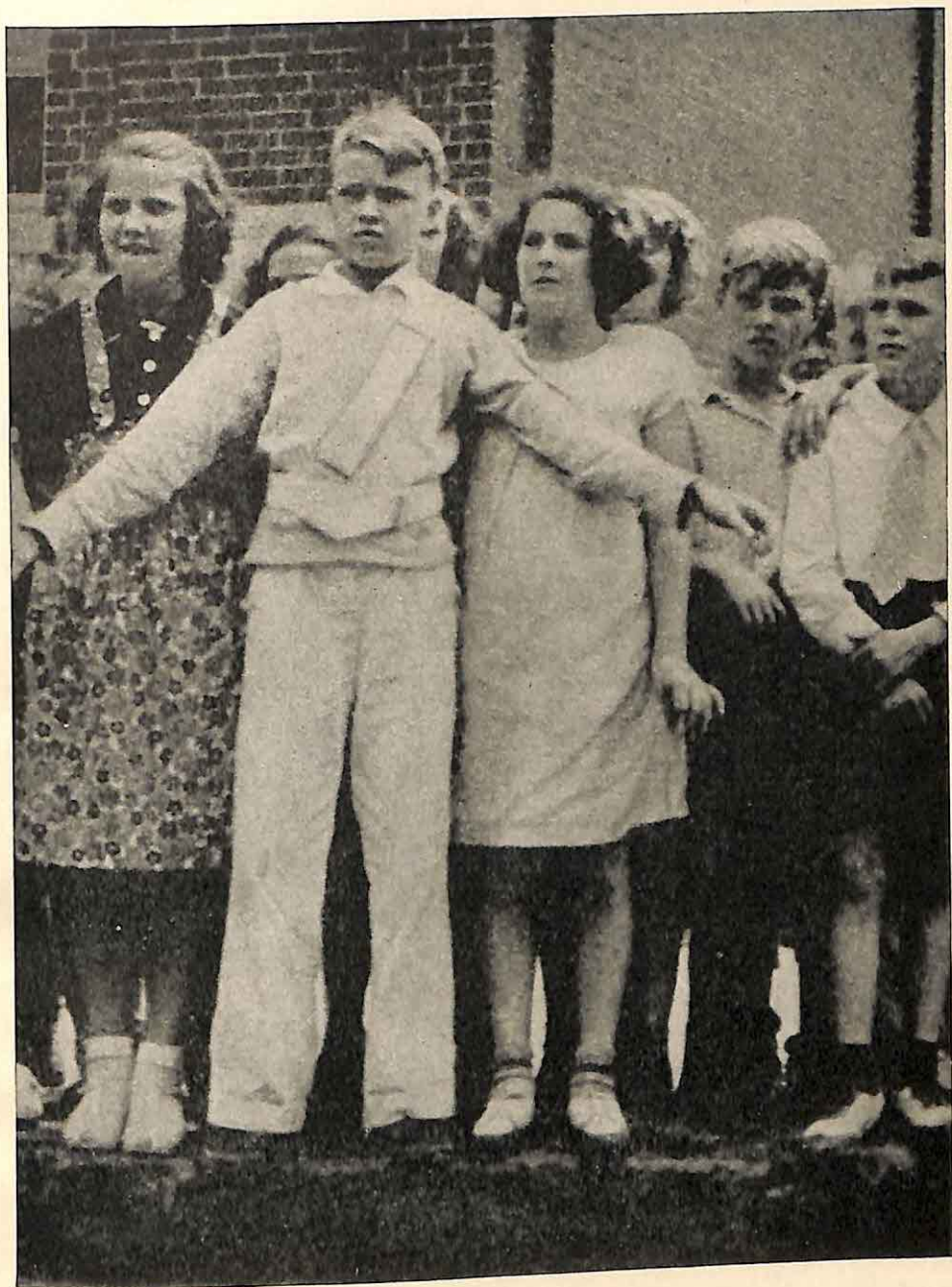
A good many times people have to give up some of their freedom out of consideration for others. If all of us were Robinson Crusoes each living on his own desert island, we might all be able to do as we please. But instead we are members of families, and our families live with lots of other families in cities or towns. And our cities are in states that are parts of a big country. So we have to consider the desires of others as well as our own.

Take a walk by yourself out into the country and you can go as fast as you like and choose your own direction. But you may get lonesome. Go with your family and you will have to let them help to decide where you go and how. Join a crowd coming out of a movie or going to a football game, and you will have to move with the crowd, no matter how impatient you become.

Suppose a few of us want to change the direction in which the crowd is moving. What are we to do? Throw



DANGEROUS FOR EVERYBODY

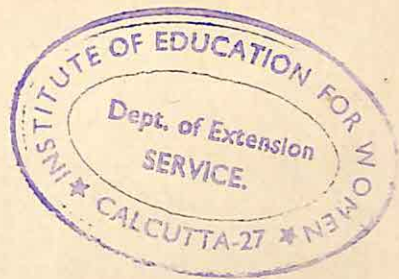


ALL WAITING TOGETHER

stones or use clubs to force them to go the way we want them to? That would be one method, but a dangerous one. People would be likely to turn around and use sticks and stones on us. A far better method would be to suggest the change and persuade the crowd to accept it.

It's easy for men and women to get impatient when they think a red light is too long. But those who are in a hurry will not help matters by rushing ahead before the light changes. Others are likely to follow and there is an accident and a traffic jam. They will do better to wait for the green light and then suggest to the police department that a change should be made in the traffic signals. If enough people favor the change, it will be made.

Democracy means patience. It means determination to find a peaceful method of getting things done. All of us must be willing to obey the rules until some way can be found to change them. Citizens in a democracy must have faith that a peaceful method can always be found if everybody is willing to take the time to find it.



SEATS FOR EVERYBODY

THE band is playing, flags are flying, and the circus is about ready to start in the big tent. Outside the main entrance, a man dressed up in a red suit with tall, shiny boots and a high silk hat is shouting to the crowds of people passing by, "Come one, come all! See the greatest show on earth! A thrill every minute! Plenty of seats inside. Step right up and get your ticket now."

All of us like to go to the circus. It's fun to sit in the big tent and watch the elephants and the clowns and the bareback riders and the lion tamers and acrobats





Photo. by Ewing Galloway

NO CHANCE TO GROW



Photo. by Ewing Galloway

FULL GROWN

who fly through the air with the greatest of ease. Every boy you know has had a chance some time or other to go to the circus, either with his father and mother, or because he carried water for the elephants and got a free ticket.

We wouldn't like it if the circus were a small show for a few people who had a special kind of ticket or an invitation to get in. When the circus comes to town, we're glad it's under the big tent and there are seats for all.

But the circus is only one of the places where we like to see everybody have an equal chance. If there is going to be a race, we want the starter to be fair, lining up all the runners on the same line, and making sure that they all wait for the signal. Some will run faster than others but at least they will all start even. Nobody knows who is going to win. We may have an idea but we can never be absolutely sure. Someone whom we least expect to win may surprise us by being the first to break the tape.

It's not fair to play favorites among boys and girls who

are just starting out in life. All of them deserve the same chance to go to school and decide what they want to do for a living. No one knows at the beginning who will succeed and who will fail or who has special talent for one kind of work rather than another. Some will turn out to be doctors and lawyers and aviators and engineers. Others will be more interested in going into business or teaching school or having a farm. Still others will want to learn how to run machines or build houses or put skyscrapers together. And there are likely to be some who have a talent for art or music or drama.

The same kind of seed may be planted in two different cornfields. And if both of them do not have the same care and the proper amount of sunshine and rain, they won't have the same chance to live. One may shrivel up and die while the other grows tall and beautiful.

When people are given a chance, they are likely to get all kinds of important ideas—ideas for automobiles and airplanes and trains, ideas for new gadgets like fountain



PRETTY SURE TO MISS

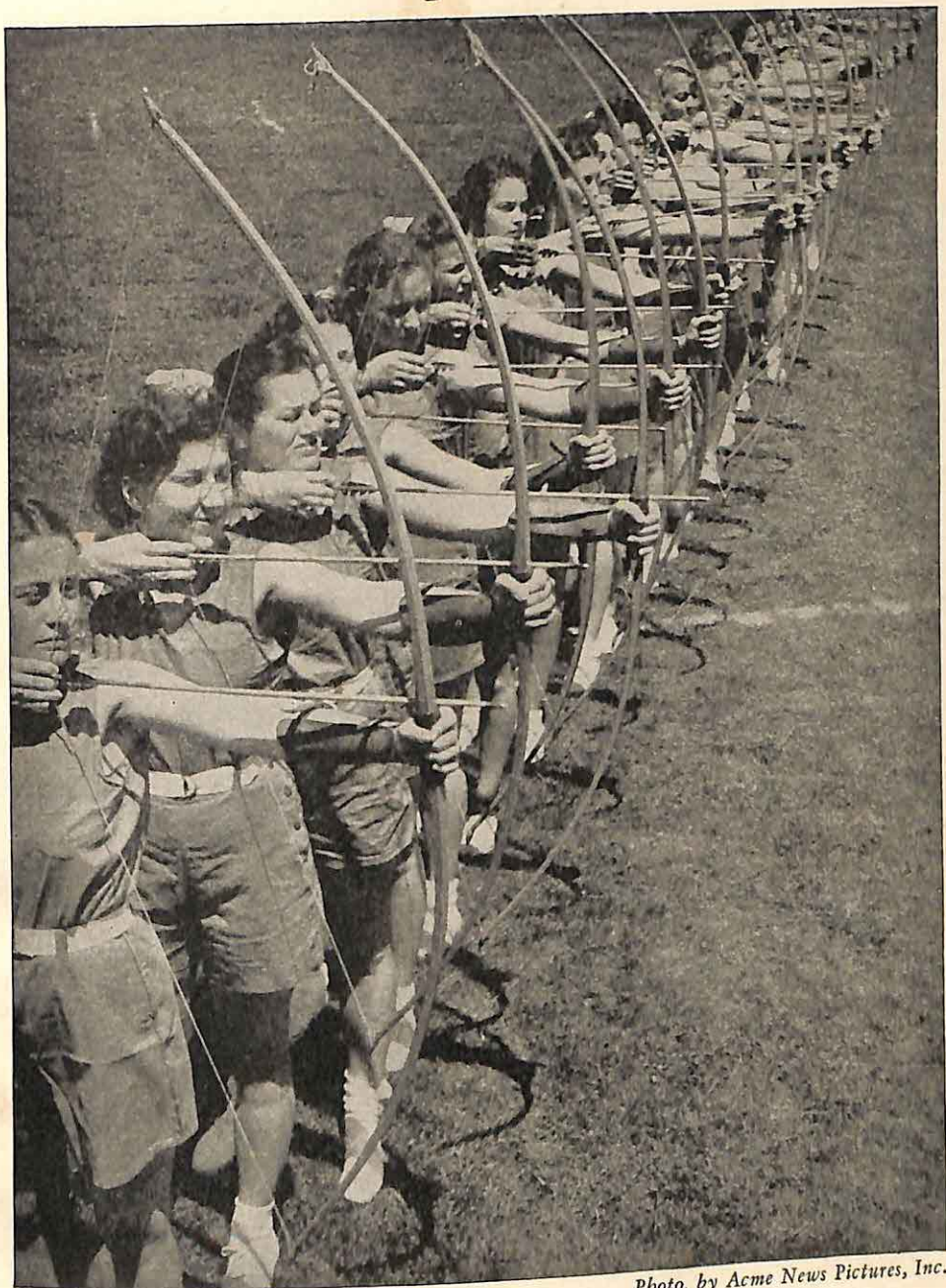


Photo. by Acme News Pictures, Inc.

A GOOD CHANCE TO HIT THE MARK

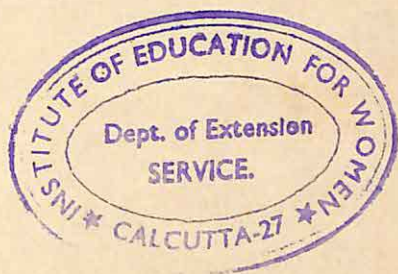
pens and zippers, ideas for new ways to cure disease and make people healthier, ideas for books and pictures and houses, ideas for new games and new songs, ideas about the world we live in, and about the stars we see at night, and about God.

The kind of a country which we call a democracy needs lots of schools and libraries and scientific laboratories and theaters and art galleries and concert halls. There must be room for everybody. For democracy means opportunity.

So democracy means a number of things. People in a democracy must learn how to enjoy the freedom of living their own lives. They must know how to decide important questions for themselves and how to take part with others in making rules for the good of all. When they disagree over some question, they must listen to all points of view and then choose the one they consider right. They must let the other fellow have his own opinion whether they agree with him or not. Even when they

are anxious to get something done, they must be willing to wait until enough people can be persuaded so that it can be done peacefully rather than by force.

Democracy is not easy—for individuals, for groups, or for a nation. It requires training and plenty of practice. Mistakes are likely to be made. Wrong roads are followed. Plans have to be tried and tried again before they succeed. But mistakes can be corrected only if all of us are willing to accept our share of responsibility and are determined that freedom, tolerance, and equal opportunity shall be guaranteed to everyone.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The photographs with the following captions were taken by Mr. Goslin with the co-operation of pupils from the Bronxville Public School:

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JUST LISTENING
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